



Economic and Social Analysis

Status:

In Progress

IWR Contact:

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Purpose:

To evaluate how federal shore protection projects performed in the wake of hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne in 2004. Martin County, Florida was chosen as the first project to be assessed by the Economic & Social Analysis work unit (EWU). In 1996, the Corps partnered with Martin County and the State of Florida to place a beach nourishment project along 4 miles of shoreline on Hutchinson Island.

Objective:

To measure the damages prevented by the shore protection project across the National Economic Development (NED), Regional Economic Development (RED), and Other Social Effects (OSE) accounts. NED Account: Reduced physical damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure NED Account : Impacts to the regional economy, measured in terms of employment and income OSE Account: non-monetary impacts to the region reflected by indicators of public health & safety, emergency preparedness, community cohesion, and population vulnerability

A secondary objective is to collect data to assist the improvement of existing coastal damage functions.

Benefits:

The assessment presents an opportunity to perform a post-event evaluation of actual project performance, as measured by economic and social effects. The work will provide insights into the data, tools and procedures governing hurricane storm damage evaluations, while simultaneously affording an opportunity to continue testing the application of the Beach-fx storm damage assessment model. In the process, the team expects to identify recommendations for procedural improvements that will assist project delivery teams with the planning and evaluation of proposed coastal protection projects.

Progress:

Completion of preliminary analysis of NED benefits. This information will inform the RED and OSE studies. Preliminary NED results (\$15M+ damages prevented) were reported to the October 2006 meeting of the Coastal Engineering Research Board.

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